

25th August 1925]

(e) what is the rent now paid by the Government for the hired building and what rent is got from the Mission authorities for the old Court-house?

A.—The Government have no information. A report has been called for.

Electricity.

Hydro-electric development in this Presidency.

* 397 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(a) to place on the table the correspondence that has taken place in regard to hydro-electric development in this Presidency; and

(b) to state why he has not yet furnished Members of the Legislative Council with necessary papers and a memorandum, relating to hydro-electric policy and development, as promised by him at the meeting of the Council held on 21st March 1925?

A.—(a) The Government cannot undertake to place the correspondence on the table.

(b) The matter has not yet reached the stage when a memorandum indicating the policy which the Government propose to adopt can be presented to the House—but the Government hope that such a stage will have been reached by the next meeting of the Council. They have placed on the table for the information of Members the report written by Mr. Forbes on the various schemes that have been suggested for the development of power in the Presidency.

Formation of syndicate for hydro-electric development of this province.

* 398 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a communication in the public press that a retired official of the Madras Civil Service was occupying a portion of the office of the Secretary of State for India and that he was organizing or carrying on negotiations for the formation of a syndicate or company for hydro-electric development in this province, and whether the facts contained in that communication are true;

(b) if so, whether that official has been doing so under instructions from the Local Government; and

(c) if so, what instructions were given to him by the Government and when?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 137.

Hydro-electric schemes.

* 399 Q.—Mr. O. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to the announcement made by him at Mettur regarding the future development of hydro-electric schemes in this Presidency, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(i) to lay on the table of the House a detailed report about the schemes to be taken up and the order in which they are likely to be taken up together with the estimated cost and the expected profits from each scheme;